



4164-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2014-N-1076]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request; Guidance for Industry on Formal Dispute Resolution: Scientific and Technical Issues Related to Pharmaceutical Current Good Manufacturing Practice

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a proposed collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Fax written comments on the collection of information by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: To ensure that comments on the information collection are received, OMB recommends that written comments be faxed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attn: FDA Desk Officer, FAX: 202-395-7285, or emailed to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov. All comments should be identified with the OMB control number 0910-0563. Also include the FDA docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FDA PRA Staff, Office of Operations, Food and Drug Administration, 8455 Colesville Rd., COLE-14526, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, PRASStaff@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with 44 U.S.C. 3507, FDA has submitted the following proposed collection of information to OMB for review and clearance.

Guidance for Industry on Formal Dispute Resolution: Scientific and Technical Issues Related to Pharmaceutical Current Good Manufacturing Practice (OMB Control Number 0910-0563)--

Extension

The guidance is intended to provide information to manufacturers of veterinary and human drugs, including human biological drug products, on how to resolve disputes of scientific and technical issues relating to current good manufacturing practice (CGMP). Disputes related to scientific and technical issues may arise during FDA inspections of pharmaceutical manufacturers to determine compliance with CGMP requirements, or during FDA's assessment of corrective actions undertaken as a result of such inspections. The guidance provides procedures that encourage open and prompt discussion of disputes and lead to their resolution. The guidance describes procedures for raising such disputes to the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) and center levels and for requesting review by the dispute resolution (DR) Panel.

When a scientific or technical issue arises during an FDA inspection, the manufacturer should initially attempt to reach agreement on the issue informally with the investigator. Certain scientific or technical issues may be too complex or time consuming to resolve during the inspection. If resolution of a scientific or technical issue is not accomplished through informal mechanisms prior to the issuance of Form FDA 483, the manufacturer can formally request DR and can use the formal two-tiered DR process described in the guidance.

Tier one of the formal DR process involves scientific or technical issues raised by a manufacturer to the ORA and center levels. If a manufacturer disagrees with the tier-one decision, tier-two of the formal DR process would then be available for appealing that decision

to the DR panel. The written request for formal DR to the appropriate ORA unit should be made within 30 days of the completion of an inspection, and should include all supporting documentation and arguments for review, as described in this document. The written request for formal DR to the DR Panel should be made within 60 days of receipt of the tier-one decision and should include all supporting documentation and arguments, as described in the following paragraphs.

All requests for formal DR should be in writing and include adequate information to explain the nature of the dispute and to allow FDA to act quickly and efficiently. Each request should be sent to the appropriate address listed in the guidance and include the following:

- Cover sheet that clearly identifies the submission as either a request for tier-one DR or a request for tier-two DR;
- name and address of manufacturer inspected (as listed on FDA Form 483);
- date of inspection (as listed on Form FDA 483);
- date Form FDA 483 issued (from Form FDA 483);
- facility Establishment Identifier Number, if available (from Form FDA 483);
- FDA employee names and titles that conducted inspection (from Form FDA 483);
- office responsible for the inspection (e.g., district office, as listed on Form FDA 483);
- application number if the inspection was a preapproval inspection;
- comprehensive statement of each issue to be resolved:
 - Identify the observation in dispute;
 - clearly present the manufacturer's scientific position or rationale concerning the issue under dispute with any supporting data;

- state the steps that have been taken to resolve the dispute, including any informal DR that may have occurred before the issuance of Form FDA 483;
- identify possible solutions; and
- state expected outcome.
- Name, title, telephone and FAX number, and email address (as available) of manufacturer contact.

The guidance was initiated in response to industry's request for a formal DR process to resolve differences related to scientific and technical issues that arise between investigators and pharmaceutical manufacturers during FDA inspections of foreign and domestic manufacturers. In addition to encouraging manufacturers to use currently available DR processes, the guidance describes the formal two-tiered DR process explained previously. The guidance also covers the following topics:

- The suitability of certain issues for the formal DR process, including examples of some issues with a discussion of their appropriateness for the DR process.
- Instructions on how to submit requests for formal DR and a list of the supporting information that should accompany these requests.
- Public availability of decisions reached during the DR process to promote consistent application and interpretation of drug quality-related regulations.

Description of Respondents: Pharmaceutical manufacturers of veterinary and human drug products and human biological drug products.

FDA estimates that approximately two manufacturers will submit approximately two requests annually for a tier-one DR and that there will be one appeal of these requests to the DR Panel (request for tier-two DR). FDA estimates that it will take manufacturers approximately 30

hours to prepare and submit each request for a tier-one DR and approximately 8 hours to prepare and submit each request for a tier-two DR. Table 1 provides an estimate of the annual reporting burden for requests for tier-one and tier-two DRs.

In the Federal Register of August 11, 2014 (79 FR 46836), FDA published a 60-day notice requesting public comment on the proposed collection of information. No comments were received.

Table 1.--Estimated Annual Reporting Burden¹

Activity	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Average Burden per Response	Total Hours
Requests for Tier-One DR	2	1	2	30	60
Requests for Tier-Two DR	1	1	1	8	8
Total					68

¹There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection of information.

Dated: December 17, 2014.

Leslie Kux,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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